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ENST 335L.01: The Environmental Vision

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The Environmental Vision
ENST 335L
Fall 2021

Mark Sundeen
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T-TH 2-3:20
Office Hours: JRH 102 MW 2-3:30

This course will examine modern environmentalism through its diverse strands of literature. We will synthesize and critique a broad array of thinkers and writers, from historical figures like Thoreau and Black Elk to contemporary writers such as Joy Harjo and Eduardo Corral. Students will write both analytical and creative responses that interrogate questions of what the environment is, and who gets to write about it.

Requirements

Write 5 short response papers to the weekly readings (700-1000 words each or 3 pages double-spaced)

Write one long paper (10 pages double spaced) that synthesizes at least 2 works from the semester. May be academic or creative.

Attend two literary events and write a short (150 word) response.

Attendance Policy

Students are allowed two absences. On the third absence, the final semester will drop by a full letter grade. On the fifth absence, the student will be dropped from the course.

Grades

Attendance & Participation: 20%

Short Papers: 50%

Final Paper: 20%

Final Paper Revision: 10%

Books

Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass

Cormac McCarthy, The Road

Eduardo Corral, Guillotine

Camille Dungy, Black Nature: Four Centuries of African-American Nature Poetry

American Earth: Nature Writing Since Thoreau

Video

Rise. Episode 1 "Sacred Water" and 2 "Red Power"

Neill Blomkamp, Elysium

Equal Access. If you have a disability that requires accomodation, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can work together to address your needs.

Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.

COVID. UM recommends that students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center. Mask use is required within the classroom. Seating arrangements (sitting in the same spot each class period) and daily class attendance will be used to support contact tracing efforts if needed. Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom. If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330. If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. Quarantining students should not expect the class to be changed to a hybrid structure, however, and may be assigned short homeworks to serve the place of classroom activities.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code: (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).